

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00620 240929Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 DHA-02 IO-13 CU-02 /078 W

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P R 240848Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1687

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, US, KS

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL KOREAN REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S
INAUGURATION

REF: SEOUL 589 (DTG 210848Z JAN 77)

SUMMARY: FURTHER COMMENTARIES IN KOREAN PRESS OVER WEEKEND
EMPHASIZE DIFFICULTIES CARTER WILL FACE IN REFLECTING IN
FOREIGN POLICY HIS INTEREST IN MORALITY. EMBASSY SOURCES
COMMENT THAT DISSIDENTS FIND ENCOURAGEMENT IN INAUGURAL
ADDRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONTINUING COMMENT ON CARTER INAUGURAL,
OFFICIAL SEOUL SINMUN CARRIED SKEPTICAL EDITORIAL NOTING:
"IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER CARTER'S MORAL VALUES CAN BE
APPLIED TO ALL NATIONS, IN VIEW OF DIFFERENT HISTORICAL AND
SOCIAL BACKGROUNDS." LONG EDITORIAL IN CONSERVATIVE CHOSON
ILBO MADE SAME POINT, ADDING OBSERVATION THAT,
"BARRING SOME UNFORESEEN DISASTER, IT IS A FOREGONE

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CONCLUSION THAT CARTER AGE WILL LAST EIGHT YEARS... WE
WONDER WHETHER COMBINED STRENGTH OF DOMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION
AND CONGRESS WILL NOT BRING GREAT AND UNPREDICTABLE CHANGES
IN U.S. SOCIETY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS." SINA ILBO
ALSO STRESSED PROBLEM CARTER WOULD FACE IN ADJUSTING
HIS POLICIES TO REALITIES.

2. HAN'GUK ILBO IN SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT TONE POINTED OUT THAT, IN PAST, U.S. HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR ENJOYING FREEDOM AD MORALITY INTERNALLY WHILE HELPING LACK OF FREEDOM AND USING IMMORALITY EXTERNALLY. "CARTER HAS SET AS HIS GOAL COMBINING THESE DOUBLE STANDARDS INTO ONE...HE IS ONE OF MOST AMBITIOUS LEADERS IN U.S. HISTORY. THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING WITH GREAT INTEREST HOW HIS AMBITIONS, ASPIRATIONS, AND IDEALS WILL BE REALIZED."

3. REACTIONS OF TWO OF EMBASSY'S JOURNALIST SOURCES WERE LESS RESTRAINED. ONE, WHO HAD CAREFULLY READ CARTER'S MESSAGE TO FOREIGN NATIONS, CALLED THE STATEMENT "STRONG STUFF" AND COMMENTED THAT IT SHOULD END HOPEFUL SPECULATION BY SUPPORTERS OF PAK ADMINISTRATION THAT CARTER'S "MORALITY" WAS MERELY CAMPAIGN RHETORIC. HE SAW MESSAGE AS OFFERING A WARNING TO REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS AND SUPPORT TO DEMOCRATIC DISSIDENTS. ANOTHER SOURCE, ALSO CONCENTRATING ON REFERENCES TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN MESSAGE AND INAUGURAL SPEECH, SUGGESTED THEY WOULD HEARTEN DISSIDENTS, WHO HAVE LONG BEEN QUIET AND THAT STUDENTS IN PARTICULAR MAY BE WILLING TO RISK ARREST, IN BELIEF THAT NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION WOULD REACT STRONGLY TO SUPPRESSION.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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